

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 22, beginning with line 14, with the following:

The authentication/negotiation component 110a can also include (although it is not specifically shown) a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server that is responsible for issuing and managing IP addresses. DHCP servers are known and will not be further discussed herein. Alternatively, the authentication/negotiation component 110a can include a Network Address Translator (NAT) software module. NAT is responsible for issuing private addresses to clients and then translating these to public routable IP addresses. NAT is also known and will not be further discussed herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 22, beginning with line 22, with the following:

In the illustrated example, a global authentication database 114a is provided in the form of the MICROSOFT® Microsoft's Passport Server. As pointed out above, any suitable global database can be used. This global authentication database 114a can comprise multiple different machines that are located globally around the world. The database is used, in one embodiment, to authenticate users as will be described in the "Authentication" section just below.